United States Bankruptcy Court Western District of New York

In re: Case No. 19-20905-PRW
The Diocese of Rochester Chapter 11

Debtor

CERTIFICATE OF NOTICE

District/off: 0209-2 User: admin Page 1 of 11

Date Rcvd: Feb 16, 2024 Form ID: pdforder Total Noticed: 5

The following symbols are used throughout this certificate:

Symbol Definition

+ Addresses marked '+' were corrected by inserting the ZIP, adding the last four digits to complete the zip +4, or replacing an incorrect ZIP. USPS

regulations require that automation-compatible mail display the correct ZIP.

Notice by first class mail was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center on Feb 18, 2024:

Recipi ID Recipient Name and Address

ntcapr + Ad Hoc Parish Committee, c/o Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP, Timothy P. Lyster, Esq., 1900 Bausch & Lomb Place, Rochester, NY

14604-2714

ntcapr + Continental Insurance Company, c/o Barclay Damon LLP, Attn: Jeffrey A. Dove, Esq., Barclay Damon Tower, 125 East Jefferson Street

Syracuse, NY 13202-2515

intp + Continental Insurance Company, David Christian Attorneys LLC, 105 W. Madison St., 14th Floor, Chicago, IL 60602-4654

pr + Lisa M. Passero, The Diocese of Rochester, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, NY 14624-1890

TOTAL: 4

Notice by electronic transmission was sent to the following persons/entities by the Bankruptcy Noticing Center.

Electronic transmission includes sending notices via email (Email/text and Email/PDF), and electronic data interchange (EDI). Electronic transmission is in Eastern

Feb 16 2024 18:26:00

Standard Time.

Recip ID Notice Type: Email Address Date/Time Recipient Name and Address

ustWH + Email/Text: ustpregion02.br.ecf@usdoj.gov

William K. Harrington, Office of The United States Trustee, U.S. Federal Office Building, 201

Varick Street, Suite 1006, New York, NY

10014-4811

TOTAL: 1

BYPASSED RECIPIENTS

The following addresses were not sent this bankruptcy notice due to an undeliverable address, *duplicate of an address listed above, *P duplicate of a preferred address, or ## out of date forwarding orders with USPS.

NONE

NOTICE CERTIFICATION

I, Gustava Winters, declare under the penalty of perjury that I have sent the attached document to the above listed entities in the manner shown, and prepared the Certificate of Notice and that it is true and correct to the best of my information and belief.

Meeting of Creditor Notices only (Official Form 309): Pursuant to Fed .R. Bank. P.2002(a)(1), a notice containing the complete Social Security Number (SSN) of the debtor(s) was furnished to all parties listed. This official court copy contains the redacted SSN as required by the bankruptcy rules and the Judiciary's privacy policies.

Date: Feb 18, 2024 Signature: /s/Gustava Winters

CM/ECF NOTICE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

The following persons/entities were sent notice through the court's CM/ECF electronic mail (Email) system on February 16, 2024 at the address(es) listed below:

Name Email Address

Adam Horowitz

on behalf of Creditor Certain Sexual Abuse Claimants adam@adamhorowitzlaw.com

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TOTAL: 247

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re:

The Diocese of Rochester,

Bankruptcy Case No. 19-20905-PRW Chapter 11

Debtor.

DECISION AND ORDER DECLINING TO APPROVE COMPETING DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS FILED BY CONTINENTAL INSURANCE COMPANY AND JOINTLY BY THE DEBTOR & CREDITORS' COMMITTEE

PAUL R. WARREN, U.S.B.J.

On January 30, 2024, the Court held a hearing on CNA's Motion for Entry of an Order Approving Disclosure Statement in Support of Continental Insurance Company's Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for the Diocese of Rochester, Approving Solicitation Procedures for Continental Insurance Company's Plan of Reorganization for the Diocese of Rochester, Approving Ballots and Establishing Procedures for Voting on Competing Plans, Approving the Form, Manner, and Scope of Notice for the Confirmation Hearing and Granting Related Relief (ECF No. 2284) and the Diocese/Committee's Motion for Entry of an Order Approving Disclosure Statement; Approving Solicitation Packages and Distribution Procedures; Approving the Forms of Ballots and Establishing Procedures for Voting on Joint Amended Plan; Approving the Form, Manner, and Scope of Confirmation Notices; Establishing Certain Deadlines in Connection with Approval of the Disclosure Statement and Confirmation of the Joint Amended Plan; and Granting Related Relief (ECF No. 2285).

After careful consideration of voluminous submissions filed by CNA and the Diocese/Committee, and after consideration of the argument from counsel to the parties during a

lengthy hearing, in support of their respective Disclosure Statements and in opposition to their

opponent's, as well as objections filed by the UST and the Sisters of Saint Joseph, the Court

declined to approve either Disclosure Statement, as currently presented. (ECF Nos. 2046, 2218,

2247, 2341, 2345, 2348, 2349, 2351, 2373, 2375, 2376, 2378, 2379, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2428, 2429,

2430, 2434, 2438, 2443). The Court delivered an oral decision detailing the deficiencies in both

Disclosure Statements. Following the hearing, the Court was informed that the digital recording

system had failed, as a result of which no transcript could be produced. (See ECF Nos. 2451 &

2452). Despite the fact that the many attorneys in attendance appeared to be writing feverishly as

the Court delivered its oral ruling, a number of those attorneys have contacted chambers to request

a copy of the Court's bench notes. In response to those requests, the Court supplements its oral

ruling with this written Decision and Order.

As stated during the hearing, the following *non-exclusive list* of deficiencies must be

addressed in further amended Disclosure Statements:

1. Both Disclosure Statements lack plain language explanations of how Survivors will

be treated under the Plan.

2. Both Disclosure Statements lack adequate information because neither informs the

average Survivor, clearly and succinctly, how much money he/she may receive,

when he/she will receive it, and what contingencies there are to receiving a

distribution.

3. Neither Disclosure Statement provides information, clearly and succinctly,

detailing how much of the settlement funding will be deducted to cover

administrative expenses or to fund reserves—such as future claims, Diocese post-

confirmation costs, "Enhanced Claims," or Trust expenses, so that it is plain for all

to see how much of the "headline settlement amount" will actually be left for distribution to Survivors. The Court recalls that during the hearing, counsel to the Diocese conceded those administrative costs could approach \$50 million, leaving considerably less than \$126.35 million for Abuse Survivors under the Diocese/Committee Plan. In seems odd that Committee counsel demanded that

disclosure be made in the Rockville Centre case, but that same Committee counsel

has been noticeably silent on insisting that information be disclosed in this case.

4. Both Disclosure Statements provide that distributions will be made to Survivors in

the manner set out in the Allocation Protocol and Trust Agreement—both of which

are filed separately as Exhibits to the Plan Supplement. (See ECF No. 2373, Ex. 1)

& 3; ECF No. 2427, Ex. 1 & 5). Such information must be included in

straightforward language within the four corners of each Disclosure Statement. The

Court and Survivors should not have to piece together information from various

documents.

5. Neither Plan proponent responded to the UST objection (ECF No. 2345)

concerning the exclusion of quarterly fees from amounts funding the Plan, which

the UST asserts to be improper under 28 U.S.C. § 1930.

6. Neither Disclosure Statement adequately addresses the UST's objection concerning

third-party releases, non-consensual releases, and the scope of exculpation and

indemnification provisions to the proposed Plans, in an easily understood manner,

so that Survivors can understand the ramifications to the proposed Plans if some or

all of those provisions are found to be improper. What is "Plan B" should that

occur?

7. CNA's Disclosure Statement fails to provide any information to Survivors about

the potential exposure to CNA if Survivors are successful in proving liability on

the part of the Diocese and in defeating the coverage defenses mentioned by CNA.

8. With regard to the Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement, the Court will not

approve a Disclosure Statement or Plan that includes "Stipulated Judgments"—or

a similar term designed to do the same thing—a position that the Court has

espoused for over a year.

9. With regard to the Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement and Plan—the

inclusion of an "exception" to the insurance neutrality provisions that states that the

Court will enter a confirmation order finding that the insurance assignment does

not trigger a coverage defense is overreaching and unacceptable, as counsel seemed

to acknowledge at the hearing.

10. The Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement fails to inform Survivors of the

financial impact on Survivors who are not chosen to be "Litigation Claimants" or

how much money the Trust must set aside to fund "Claim Enhancements." Further,

there is no discussion of the legal basis to treat the members of the same class

differently, seemingly in violation of § 1123(a)(4).

11. There is conflicting language in the Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement

regarding the recovery or non-recovery of "Economic Damages" by abuse

claimants. Identical language to that contained in the Allocation Protocol was

objected to by Pachulski Stang Ziehl & Jones LLP, as Committee counsel, before

Judge Glenn in the Diocese of Rockville Centre case a few weeks ago. And yet,

before this Court counsel is supporting the same language it found offensive in the

Rockville Centre case. Why?

12. The Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement fails to include financial information

that would allow Survivors (and the Court) to assess whether "Protected Parties"

such as parishes, schools and other organizations that seek to be released under the

Plan are making a financial contribution that is fair/substantial, as compared to the

liability being released.

13. The Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement and Plan appear to give the Diocese

prospective approval of an Exit Financing Facility, without any meaningful

information and without Court approval.

14. The Diocese/Committee and counsel to the Sisters of Saint Joseph are to meet and

confer for the purpose of drafting language to be included in the Disclosure

Statement and Plan, addressing the concerns of the Sisters of Saint Joseph as a joint

tortfeasor, which language is to be broad enough to protect any similarly situated

joint tortfeasor.

15. The Diocese/Committee Disclosure Statement and Plan must address any post-

petition abuse claims made against the Diocese, with a detailed discussion of how

any such claim will be treated under the Plan and estimated for purposes of

confirmation.

While the Survivors and the public may have been led to believe that this Court's decision

to decline to approve the Disclosure Statements stands alone and is unusual, counsel are all well-

aware that Judge Glenn and Judge Kinsella also declined to approve the Disclosure Statements in

the cases involving the Dioceses of Rockville Centre and Syracuse. The Plan proponents are

directed to study the rulings concerning the Disclosure Statements, recently issued by Judge Glenn (See The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, Case No. 20-12345, Order Regarding the Second Modified Disclosure Statement for First Amended Plan of Reorganization Proposed by The Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, at ECF No. 2828 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y. Jan. 18, 2024)) and Judge Kinsella (See The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York, Case No. 20-30663, Order Denying Approval of the Disclosure Statement in Support of Joint Chapter 11 Plan of Reorganization for The Roman Catholic Diocese of Syracuse, New York Dated December 6, 2023, at ECF No. 1664 (Bankr. N.D.N.Y. Feb. 8, 2024)). The Court expects that the Diocese/Committee (and CNA where applicable) will incorporate curative provisions in the Disclosure Statements and Plans in this case to address revisions required by Judge Glenn or Judge Kinsella in the Rockville Centre or Syracuse cases, or explain in great detail why the curative provisions in those cases are not being made in this case (for example, see pages 5-6 of Judge Kinsella's Order for additional concerns that seem to apply with equal measure to various documents that this Court has been asked to approve or the Plan that this Court will be asked to confirm). Given the fact that many of the attorneys in this case are also involved in other pending diocesan bankruptcy cases, it should not be burdensome for counsel to look to other cases for drafting samples.

The Court has not ruled on the merits of the CNA and Diocese/Committee's motions—with the likely exception of the "insurance neutrality" issues such as stipulated judgments and the proposed insurance assignment language, as discussed above. For purposes of disclosure, neither the Court nor the Survivors should be expected to distill down, decipher or connect-the-dots between multiple documents. The Abuse Survivors should not be left to wonder how much money they may receive, when it might be paid, and how much of the "headline settlement pot" will

actually be left after the administrative costs are taken out. Accordingly, the Plan proponents are

directed as follows: Simplified Disclosure Statements are to be filed with the Court on or before

March 15, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. EST. Objections to the Disclosure Statements are to be filed on or

before April 1, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. EST. A continuation of the hearing on the motions of CNA

and the Diocese/Committee will be held on April 16, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. The hearing will be

held in person in the Rochester Courthouse. The hearing will not be available by telephone.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: February 16, 2024 Rochester, New York

HON. PAUL R. WARREN

United States Bankruptcy Judge